Posties on Strike

Health Workers Rally in Belfast Strikes Ahead.

Meanwhile in Ballymena - The End Times.

BLACK STAR

Solidarity with the Strancally Two!

A few miles to the north of the town of Youghal, County Cork, but on the County Waterford side of the Blackwater River, stands Strancally Castle. Traditionally a stronghold of the Fitzgerald earls of Desmond, there is a story that it was at one time in the hands of Spaniards who lured the local landowners to a banquet and them dropped them through a trap door to their deaths. This would seem to be a warning for the new owners of the castle and estate who imagine themselves as latter day aristocrats. They recently got rid of two Spanish CNT comrades who tried to challenge the conditions of servitude they were subjected to whilst working for these super-rich landlords. Their palatial place of employment became a virtual prison during the Covid-19 lockdown, compounded by long hours of work for people who imagine themselves to be still in the nineteenth century. Like Montjuïc, the infamous fortress above Barcelona where so many anarchist activists were imprisoned, Strancally stands to write a new chapter in the oppression of workers and anarchists if we let it happen.

> 'Show the owners of Strancally Castle that we are not alone in this fight'
>
> Further details on Page 6.

We extend our full support and solidarity to our sacked comrades and ask the wider anarchist movement to do the same.

Postal workers on the picket

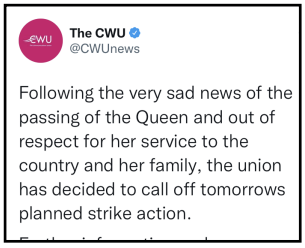
Members of Organise! joined other workers and supporters of Communication Workers' Union (CWU) members on their picket lines across the North from the start of their strike on 26 August, with further actions on 31 August, and the 8th and 9th of this month.

A joint postal and telecoms workers' rally was held in Belfast on 31 August and it was joined by journalists employed by the Reach Group (who own the Mirror, Express and Star among other titles), who staged a walkout. All are taking action over laughable pay 'offers', with the Royal Mail bosses who helped ensure profits of £758 million, saying they will only consider more than the 2% offer for workers if they accept changes to working conditions. BT and Openreach have simply said they won't be re-entering negotiations and can afford nothing more for their workers, either engineers or call centre staff.

Perhaps this is a reflection of the 3% dip in their profits last year to a measly £1.537 billion, though this was offset by their broadband roll-out operator Openreach increasing their revenue by 4% and generating £1.361 billion for the company. There's obviously only so much to go around.

Meanwhile, those lucky bastards, the tabloid journos, were offered 3% by Reach Group and the ungrateful fuckers walked out. Unhappy at the £7 million in pay packages doled out to just two of the Group's chief executives and the £4 million for their shareholders, the journalists are on a work to rule from 1 to 13 September and were set to take strike action again from the 14th to the 16th of the month.

Union 'leadership' cancel strikes in deference to dead monarch.


The CWU
@CWUnews
Following the very sad news of the passing of the Queen and out of respect for her service to the country and her family, the union has decided to call off tomorrows planned strike action.

In response to the death of Queen Elizabeth II the leadership of the CWU called off the strike organised for 9th September out of 'respect'. This monarchic deference shows no respect to members engaged in a struggle against the multi-million profit Royal Mail and weakens their fight at a key moment instead of pushing forward. CWU general secretary Dave Ward said: "Following the very sad news of the passing of the Queen, and out of respect for her service to the country and her family, the union has decided to call off tomorrow's planned strike action."

tssa
The transport & travel union
Upon the news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has died, TSSA union expresses deepest condolences to her family, friends, the country and those affected by her passing.
TSSA is cancelling planned industrial action for September and will be respecting the period of public mourning.
The union pays respect to Britain's longest serving monarch.

Strikes on the railway across the water have also been cancelled. RMT boss Mick Lynch, recently elevated to superhero status by the 'left', announced the cancellation of strikes set for the 15th and 16th of September. Announcing that the "RMT joins the whole nation in paying its respects to Queen Elizabeth," he has abandoned workers fighting for improved pay, against proposed job cuts and who are resisting attacks on rail safety. The Transport Salaried Staff Association (TSSA) has also cancelled strike action due to take place in September while train drivers union ASLEF has postposed strike action planned for September 15.

The Queen is dead but the wealthy won't cancel the class war.

Health Workers Protest Push For Strike Action!

NHS workers have been staging activist-led walkouts at the Royal in Belfast for some time to protest rising costs and shit wages and conditions.

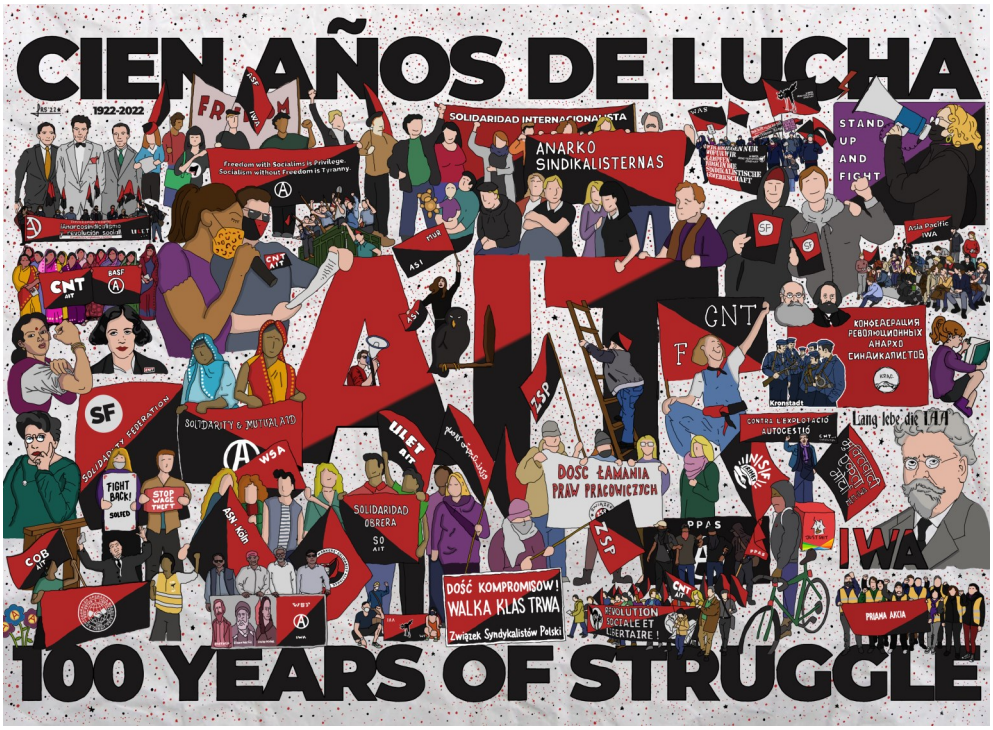
The lunchtime protests, involving hundreds of health workers, grabbed headlines on 24 August and seem set to continue, culminating in strike action in the near future. Unison, who 'represent' many of the workers, are notorious amongst the bigger unions for their conservatism, but they are clearly being pushed by the grassroots membership demanding they get their act together, especially as inflation continues to soar and the latest round of austerity for workers and ever-increasing profit and luxury for the ruling class trundles on.

Not a pint to be had

The Belfast barmen's strike 1947.

A freezing cold winter followed by shortages in fuel and food, and with rationing not fully eliminated, it was maybe not the best time for the boozers to close, but that's exactly what happened in Belfast between March and June 1947. The Eglantine Inn decided in February that year to appoint a bar manager, James O'Kane, who was not a union member and refused to join the Barmen's Local of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union (ATGWU). This went against an agreement made between the 'T&G' (now Unite the Union), and the Ulster Vintners' Association. Hundreds of barmen (they were overwhelmingly men), walked out and the dockers came out in sympathy, immediately refusing to unload imports of beers and spirits, or export any of the same. Guinness supplies were quickly halved and Belfast had a dry Easter and a drier summer, as talks to resolve the dispute rolled on until a deal was reached in mid-June, the dockers ended their sympathy embargo and the pubs re-opened. The solidarity was not forgotten and many a thirsty docker got their fair share of free pints afterwards.

100 Years of the International Workers Association



``We anarcho-syndicalists continue to fight for a more just tomorrow, because we carry a new world in our hearts, and that world is growing at this moment´´.

This December the 28th Congress of the International Workers Association (IWA) will be held in Alcoy in Spain. This December also marks the centenary of the International, founded in Berlin at its first Congress from 25th December to 2nd January 2022. Commemorative events celebrating the centenary of the International will take place in Alcoy from the 5th to the 10th of December while the centenary congress itself will take place from the 6th to the 10th.

IWA sections from Australia, Norway, Colombia, Sweden, Austria, Russia, Poland, Brazil, Serbia and Montenegro, France, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Slovakia and Spain will attend with groups of Friends of the IWA from countries such as Bulgaria, the Philippines, India, Chile, Pakistan and the United States have also been invited.

The Local headquarters of the Alcoy Various (General) Union section of the CNT-AIT will provide the meeting space of the upcoming Congress. The city, which in 1873 was the headquarters of the General Committee of the Spanish Section of the 1st Workers' International. The first 100 years of struggle and resistance of the IWA will be commemorated in theatre, concerts, talks and other activities.

The importance of this Congress is centred around the commemoration of a century of solidarity and comradeship among workers all over the world who joined forces and created the AIT in order to achieve the moral and material improvement of the world proletariat, and the creation of a society in freedom, without exploitation, or hierarchies of any kind.

Information from the CNT-AIT Congressional Commission

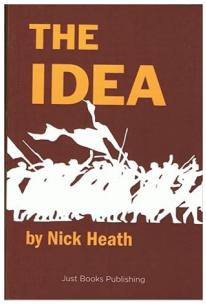
Just Books Publishing release first two titles

Just Books Publishing, recently set up by the Just Books Collective (an integral part of the work of Organise!), has successfully released it's first two titles.

The first is a reprint of Gregori Petrovich Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the Anarcho-Syndicalist International Workers Association – founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£11.99



The second title is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

isbn 9781739723712

£18.99

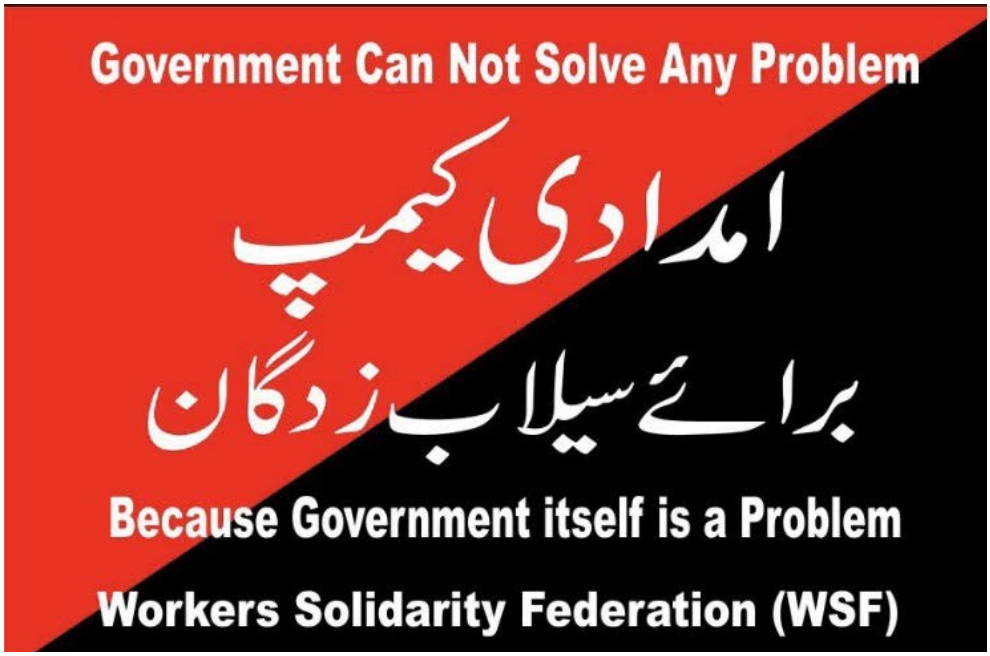
https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/

Children go Hungry While Bankers get Richer.

In the midst of the so-called cost of living crisis that is leaving more and more of our class cold and hungry, without heat or electricity, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has in his magnanimity decided to remove the cap on bankers bonuses. Kwasi Kwarteng is set to reward wankers, like Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey, for their services to capitalism - Bailey has been calling for 'wage restraint' in the face of rampant profiteering. For years these wankers have already been raising their own pay and paying themselves allowances in order to dodge the bonus cap. The message is clear, the rich will be rewarded as we punish the poor. Time for a bit of levelling!

"Government can't solve any problem Because Government it self is a problem"

Anarcho-Syndicalist flood relief work in Pakistan


Government Can Not Solve Any Problem
امدادی کیمپ
برائے سیلاب زدگان
Because Government itself is a Problem
Workers Solidarity Federation (WSF)

With over one thousand dead, tens of millions displaced, crops damaged, stores of wheat and fertiliser destroyed, countless livestock drowned or starving, and around one third of Pakistan, including its agricultural belt, under water, comrades from the Workers Solidarity Federation (a friends of grouping of the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers Association section in Pakistan), have been carrying out their own flood relief work where they can.

Immediately they put out a call for donations and they have been visiting and helping thousands of working class and poor people displaced by the floods, left destitute, hungry and suffering further from the outbreak of disease. Inflation is rampant and government assistance next to non-existent. At the very start of the crisis comrades from WSI had given out over 200 ready meals a day to families in Baluchistan. The comrades who were working day and night to provide this essential mutual aid were not 'flown in' by government or western NGOs, they were building, and continue to build solidarity and mutual aid where they lived. Like everyone else they had been made homeless by the flooding. Shortly afterwards they set up a relief camp in

Karachi where they have been distributing food and money to thousands of families in need there, and across the Sindh province, under the slogan 'Government cannot solve any problem because Government itself is a problem.'

Monthly supplies of food have been distributed to families in 'the most effected areas of Sindh and Baluchistan', while medical camps providing hygiene kits and pregnancy support have been set up in the areas of the Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa effected by the floods. They are continuing their efforts and distributing clothes, food, medical aid and cash to people who need it. They have already helped thousands of people. Of the government's very late in the day efforts at 'relief' one of the displaced said 'I run all day after helicopters to get food to feed my family and I'm tired now.' Rather than sit back and expect governments to sort this out (they won't) help the WSF who are on the ground while government throw parcels from helicopters.

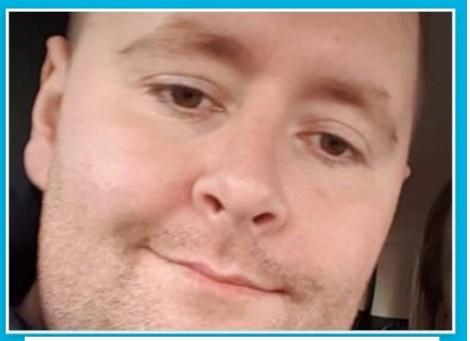
The mutual aid and solidarity being built by the WSF is not content free charity work - their understanding is being put across that only working class and poor people can help themselves. More than this they squarely lay the cause of the flooding and devastation hitting Pakistan at the feet of capitalism:

The world is not suffering from floods, rain or any other calamity but it is destroyed by capitalism!

Donate via paypal at:

https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8NfSnN0RXl

Meanwhile in Ballymena...



It's obviously better in this part of the world to be a real Christian looney rather than a makeup-up sectarian wan. Local doomsday prepper, Robert Templeton was finally jailed last week for a year for storing weapons and explosives. The judge felt that as it wasn't 'terrorist' related and involved no attempt to assemble devices, there was no sense in a longer sentence. Might have been different had he been caught when the lockdown hit – that samurai sword versus wee Robin Swann!

Demands in the Strancally Castle conflict

The wealthy owners of Strancally Castle in are facing a long list of demands from their domestic and maintenance workers.

The demands are as follows:

Against unfair dismissal.

Absence of certain payslips.

Amounts paid not shown in the payslips.

Unlawful deduction of wages.

Non-payment of salaries.

Non-payment in lieu of notice.

Mandatory overtime above the maximum allowed.

Lack of proper weekly rest period.

Core terms of employment containing false or misleading information.

The workers, supported by the libertarian union of the Marina Alta region in Spain, claim that they were fired for requesting a salary increase and for raising the issue of excessive overtime on the private estate, and have announced that they will fight for reinstatement.

The anarcho-syndicalist confederation CNT-AIT and its sister organisations of the International Workers' Association have shown their solidarity with the struggling workers, and have notified the company of the initiation of an official union dispute and the organization of a range of solidarity actions. Organise! has also shown its support for the workers' demands.

Inspectors from the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) have already confirmed payslip irregularities, certifying that the payment for overtime was made in breach of the Irish Payment of Wages Act.

The family company of the owners of the castle will have to facilitate the pay slips not delivered to the workers and regularize their salaries and taxes, and has begun a process of reviewing the payments to its large number of "domestic" workers.

In a further act of arrogance, the powerful owners of Strancally Castle, Gianni and Michael Alen-Buckley, have hired a lawyer who is appealing against the complaints of the workers, alleging that they are "not well founded", so the rest of the workers' demands are pending adjudication by the Workplace Relations Commission.

Gianni Alen-Buckley, born Giancarla Maria Gerarda Forte, and her husband Michael are facing the self-organised working class action of anarcho-syndicalists, who have dedicated more than a century of history to the fight against capitalism and for a society free of exploitation.

https://marina-alta.cnt-ait.org/

The Queen is Dead Capitalism, State and Monarchy Remains

We will not mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II. She died at the age of 96 in the opulence and comfort of Balmoral Castle. She died amidst undeserved and stolen wealth amassed by centuries of monarchs having achieved the status of the longest reigning among them.

Like the rest of the rich and powerful Royals have attempted (succeeded) in directing parliament to act in their interests. Is this a shock? Parliament acting in the interests of the rich and powerful? Hardly. Her family have used their power just like other institutions to protect the vilest among them.

A symbol of obscene wealth and power that so many of the poor have been conditioned to love and adore without question. Parading lavish wealth and yet maintained at our expense the monarch represents our fawning servitude, our illusions and, for many, somehow, faith in an unfathomable lie. A fawning seemingly so ingrained that Trade Union bureaucrats have called off strike action over the heads of their increasingly impoverished members in deference. She was a symbol of something very rotten in the world. No, we will not mourn her passing.

Nor will we join in the infantile jubilation of an immature left. There is no place for jubilation in her death. Another monarch is, of course, in place. There has been no abolition of the monarchy. Many of the crimes heaped upon the symbolic head of state of the UK are not in reality the crimes of the Queen. 'Under her reign' starts a litany of dire, devastating and murderous crimes. With the end of her reign this litany will not stop.

She has been held personally responsible for every act of aggression, war, every murder, act of torture carried out by the state. Is she complicit? Of course. Is the wealth she sat upon the result of centuries of just such actions? Of course. Is it not the monarch who declares war? Well, not really, no. The rotten little state of the United Kingdom in reality gives almost unprecedented power to its incumbent Prime Minister to declare war. Blaming a deceased and largely symbolic head of state lets almost every Prime Minister 'under her reign' off the hook. Atrocities spanning the Malayan 'Emergency' (which began before her coronation under Clement Attlee), the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya (Churchill), through many other wars and atrocities to our very own 'Troubles' (Wilson, Heath, Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher, Major, Blair), the Falklands War (Thatcher), the Gulf War (Thatcher and Major), the Bosnian War (Major), Operation Desert Fox (Blair), the Kosovo War (Blair), the war in Afghanistan (Blair, Brown, Cameron, May, Johnson), Iraq War (Blair, Brown, Cameron), the Libyan 'civil' war (Cameron), Operation Shader (Cameron, May, Johnson, Truss) and the Persian Gulf Crisis Johnson, May). Did she declare war? While technically, in the United Kingdom's unwritten constitution, the monarch is the head of the armed forces and the decision to deploy them is a prerogative power this is in reality an expected rubber stamping duty. Much like Royal Assent for Acts of Parliament which has not been denied since 1708. Blaming one monarch on every aggressive, murderous act of state during their 'reign' betrays an inability to see broader, structural processes, changing global interests and alliances, and instead a less than useless tendency to personify 'evil' or the problems facing our society in an easily identifiable individual.

The greater disparities of wealth and poverty, crippling increases to energy bills, outright profiteering on the back of our misery have indeed occurred 'under' the reign of Elizabeth II - but she was not the electricity, oil and gas companies. She is not the price-hiking supermarkets. Money grabbing landlords (she was certainly one of those) are still among us.

Some have chosen to celebrate as if we have actually witnessed the end of the monarchy. Some have betrayed an ultimately pointless glee at the death of an old woman who has certainly wielded a great deal of power and privilege. And yet the monarchy continues, a new King sits upon a throne and while some chose to celebrate other chose to believe a fairy tale that mesmerises us into servile obedience. That servile obedience extends far beyond just those mourning Elizabeth's death, it leaches into our everyday lives, our acquiescence to our exploitation, it helps hold us in our place as much as fear that everything could be worse.

Now is not a time for mourning or celebrating the death of a monarch. Now, as ever, is a time to foster, against all the odds, as spirit of resistance to this and all states, to false division and those who profit from it. It is a time to build our strength and fight back against the capitalist exploitation that has been reigning over us for much longer than Elizabeth's 70 years.

Only when we bury the monarchy, capitalism and the state will we celebrate as we should.

Get Involved: Help Build An Anarchist Alternative.

Organise! is an anarchist political group in Ireland who take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com